

I claim:

1. In an acoustic musical instrument of the violin family, which includes a body having a top, a plurality of strings having different resonant frequencies, a bridge supporting said strings, said bridge having feet which are  
5 pressed against said top by tension in said strings and causing said top to vibrate in accordance with vibrations of said strings, and a bass bar supporting said top under the foot of said bridge closest to the bass strings, the improvement which comprises:  
*a*

10 a pickup comprising one or more piezo-electric sensing element(s),  
said pickup being located between a foot of said bridge and  
said vibrating top.

2. In an acoustic musical instrument of the violin family as recited in claim 1 wherein said pickup is located between the foot of said bridge closest to said bass strings and said vibrating top.  
*a*

*2*  
3. In an acoustic musical instrument of the violin family as recited in claim *2* wherein substantially all of the force exerted by said base side foot is transmitted to said vibrating top through said piezo-electric sensing element(s).  
*16*

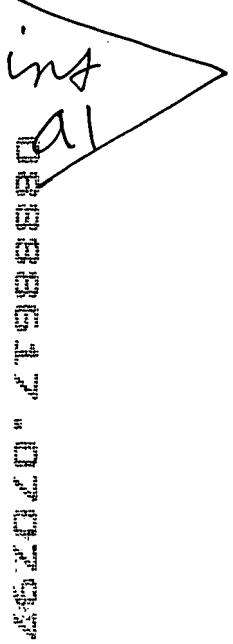
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In an acoustic musical instrument of the violin family as recited in claim 1/6 wherein said piezo-electric sensing element(s) are encased in a foil sandwich which provides shielding from external electric fields.

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In an acoustic musical instrument of the violin family as recited in claim 4/3 wherein said pickup is flexible and is conformable to the shape of said top.



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